



July, 1990

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FREE

Housing Authority Director Reviews Progress, Problems

By Judy Baston

"San Francisco is the most expensive city in the country," City Housing Authority Director David Gilmore stressed to Potrero Hill residents June 12, "and to make certain that poor San Franciscans can remain San Franciscans, we must make the public housing program viable."

Speaking at a meeting of the Potrero Hill Democratic Club, the Housing Authority chief was confronted with a myriad of concerns raised by the tenants of Potrero Hill public housing, as well as other neighborhood residents who have been supportive of tenants' needs. (The Hill's public housing tenants have been organizing to demand attention be paid to long-ignored repair problems.)

For Gilmore, the most serious challenges faced by the city agency that oversees public housing for nearly 44,000 tenants are a high vacancy level, a backlog of deferred maintenance, and major safety issues jeopardizing public-housing tenants.

The current waiting list to get into public housing numbers 2,000 families — even though the list has been closed for some time. "The real number may actually be three to four times as high," Gilmore admitted, charging that "it's unconscionable to have such a high level of vacancies in a city with this pressure. Vacancies create new vacancies because they provide places for people to occupy simply to do illegal things and create problems for neighbors."

When Gilmore took the reins of the troubled Housing Authority one year ago, there were 650 vacancies in the city — about 10 percent of the total available units. That number is now down to 290, and Gilmore's goal is that the occupancy rate will be up to 98 percent by the end of September. Potrero Public Housing still shows a high vacancy rate — 43 empty units at the Terrace and 18 at the Annex.

It had taken an average of 130 days — more than four months — to "turn vacancies around," Gilmore noted, but with a newly-organized maintenance program, he hopes to have empty units filled 10 days after they are vacated.

Maintenance, or the lack thereof, also has caused serious problems for current public housing tenants, such as Hazel Britten of Potrero Terrace, who came to the June 12 meeting and charged that there have been serious leaks in her apartment ever since the Oct. 17 earthquake, and lack of repairs has caused the problem to worsen daily. (A first round of plumbing and carpentry repairs demanded by the Potrero tenants appears to be nearing completion.)

Until recently, Gilmore explained, "all maintenance activities were deployed from a central location in the Bayview District. Half the workers' time was spent in transit from one assignment to another." By the end of summer, he promised, crews will function as a field operation, based in three sectors of the city. One of those field crews will be located at the Potrero public housing, under direct, on-site supervision. Gilmore also noted that "it will take federal money" to erase completely the huge backlog of repairs created by a policy of deferred maintenance brought

on by a plummeting federal allocation for public housing.

Answers to questions about safety in public housing were not as easily forthcoming for the Housing Authority chief. "The City probably can't afford to provide more police protection to public housing residents than to other residents," he admitted. But he noted that his agency has received \$1.5 million in federal funds for additional police services to public housing and surrounding areas, pending resolution of what he called "a small but vexing legal question with the San Francisco Police Dept."

Future perspectives for Potrero public housing and projects throughout the city, Gilmore emphasized, depend on interaction between three parties: the Housing Authority, tenants, and neighbors. The Potrero public housing developments are included in master plans for redesign and rebuilding. The Potrero developments are "old, relatively poorly designed and probably on the verge of becoming obsolete," Gilmore noted, but added, "our task is to preserve public housing stock."

Gilmore is currently embroiled in a dispute with some groups in the city who support the conversion of public housing stock to tenant ownership. Noting that the average income of public housing tenants is only \$9,000 per year (in a city where the official "poverty level" for a family of four is pegged in the low \$20,000s), Gilmore charged that some who push tenant ownership really want to get the federal government out of the public housing business. I want them in.

"I believe as much as anyone in the American dream," he stressed. "But some people are not economically able to be homeowners. Don't take a home from someone who needs to rent at low income. If people want home ownership, then let's build some more housing."



SCAMPER winner Eddie Lanzarin wins again. More photos on Page 6.

HONOR FOR HILL ARTIST



Mayor Art Agnos and sons Stephen and Christopher present Potrero Hill artist Nobuo Watanabe's painting "Powell Street Cable Car" to Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev upon their departure from the San Francisco airport. (See story Page 5) John O'Horo photo

Lanzarin, Wallach Repeat Wins in "Scenic Scamper"

By Vas Arnautoff

For the sixth consecutive time the Scenic Scamper record holder outraced a field that ranged from tots in strollers to over-60 runners in the eighth annual run benefitting the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House (Nabe) on June 16.

Marilyn Taylor-Wallach repeated for the third time as first woman finisher, coming in eighth overall and setting a new record for women, touring the 8K course in 29 minutes, 16 seconds.

As they have for a number of years, former Hill resident Mayor Art Agnos and City Attorney Louise Renne acted as starters. This year the event was dedicated to Renne in recognition of her courage in her personal fight against cancer. This year the mayor set the runners off from the starting line at Dellaro and Southern Heights with a blast from his car siren.

For the first time since winner Lanzarin started running the Scamper he had serious competition. Andreas Bergmann, a student from Germany, stayed close to the winner finishing less than a minute behind Lanzarin. But the champion's familiarity with the course and strength on the hills proved the difference.

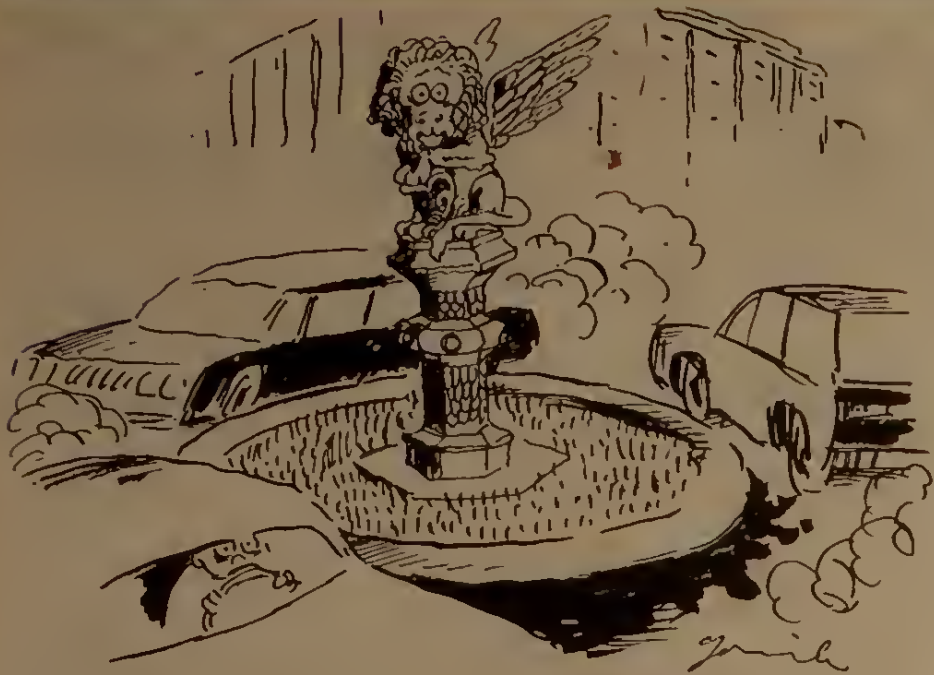
This year's field included runners from as far afield as New Mexico, Nevada, Fresno and West Sacramento.

Winners of prizes in the various age

categories were: Under 12, Evan Quidachay-Swan (repeater from last year); 13-17, Elijah McBride; 18-29, Mary Downey and Andreas Bergmann; 30-39, Kathleen Aiello and Mike Hotton; 40-49, Marian Lyons and Michael Graves; 50-59, Barbara Robben and Fred Fitchhorn; 60-plus, John Rasmussen. In addition, a special award went to four-year-old Lashawnda Tomas as the youngest entrant finisher.

Prizes ranged from dinners at local restaurants to stuffed animals for the youngsters and were donated by the following: LeDomino Restaurant, Half Shell Restaurant, Good Life Grocery, The Daily Scoop, Ray Cicerone Realty, Security Pacific Bank, Asimakopoulos Restaurant, Epplers Bakery, Moshi-Moshi Restaurant, Calif. Track and Running News, Connecticut Yankee Restaurant, Potrero Hill Florist, Mager Wine and Cheese Shop, Cafferata Ravioli Factory, Total You Massage, Farley's Dr. Video, Chiotras Grocery, Goat Hill Pizza, Garibaldi Cafe, La Romana Restaurant, Basic Brown Bears, Potrero Gardens, and the Pickle Family Circus.

In addition, Nabe director Enola D. Maxwell and Scenic Scamper organizers Terrye Ivy and Ruth Passen extend thanks to Good Life Grocery and Bracco Distributing Co. for providing refreshments after the run, Pacific Gas and Electric for the street cones marking the course, and the Sheriff's Department for enabling individuals in the Work Alternative Program to act as course monitors.



WHICH IS WORSE - ONE NEOCLASSICAL SPHINX, OR A THOUSAND POST-MODERN AUTOMOBILES?

IN OUR VIEW

Creative Taxation

With the end of one fiscal year and the beginning of another, budget crises are plaguing our city, state and federal governments. And although much budget debate may seem dry on the surface, it mirrors fundamental questions: what government's role should be in society, and what is the fairest way for citizens to support government services?

Much of the current focus at all governmental levels appears to be on the possibility of increased or continued taxes. But little of this scrutiny, as usual, is on just how fair methods of taxation are, and how to best tax the people and corporations who can afford to pay.

On the local level, much attention is being paid to continuation of the annual business license fee, reduced this year by Mayor Art Agnos from \$200 to \$150. The budget that Agnos proposed to the Board of Supervisors reflects the fiscal effects of last October 17's earthquake. Revenues from local taxes are nearly \$14 million lower than pre-earthquake projections, the same time that the earthquake left more than 2,000 people homeless, among them the city's most vulnerable residents, the poor, elderly and mentally ill who lived in residential hotels that were damaged or destroyed by the quake.

While the first two budgets Agnos presented to the Board contained more than \$100 million in General Fund cuts, this year's budget contains only \$18 million in cutbacks. Any further reductions, the Mayor insists, would have a serious and adverse impact on the quality of life for San Franciscans.

Even some of the cuts included in the \$18 million, we believe, must be rescinded. And in addition to continuing some of the current methods of raising revenues, the City should look at other, creative methods that reflect a concern for the city's priorities. One such method was suggested by a local businessman at the Mayor's Budget Conference: a hefty tax on commercial properties that are kept vacant for more than a year.

Longterm commercial vacancies are a citywide problem, reflecting the decision of some property owners to ride the crest of soaring property values, with no incentive to rent to small businesses when their buildings increase in value by 20 percent each year. But when a storefront sits empty, it denies a neighborhood the benefits of small business service and also denies the government the many taxes paid by small business owners. A vacancy tax pegged at a substantial percentage of the space's market rate rent would provide an incentive for the property owners to make their spaces available to lease.

Serious consideration of this and other creative revenue-raising proposals should begin immediately. We believe it would provide not only a source of funds for the city, but would also begin to address the serious problem of neighborhood commercial spaces that have been kept vacant for years and years.

LETTERS

Griffin is Temporary!

Editor:

We have received a smattering of criticism about our small Griff in the traffic circle. Please be patient. The grass and the statue were put in as a temporary improvement over the black asphalt and clutter that occupied the circle previously.

My wife, Mary Poland, is heading a campaign to obtain funding for a European style roundabout, featuring a statue or fountain that will be the focal point of Showplace Square.

At least we are always trying.

Bill R. Poland
Bay West Development Co.

Principal Cites Progress

Editor:

Your recent article(s) regarding Potrero Hill Middle School staff and students was disappointing in its intentional unwilling-

ness to deal honestly and/or fully with any issues it discussed. I am puzzled as to why our much-improved school was presented in such a distorted light. Freedom of the press, used in such a biased and irresponsible manner, does an injustice to the children, parents and community it serves.

Potrero Hill Middle School's progress is known and acknowledged by a growing number of my fellow Hill residents, and I am proud of what our staff has jointly accomplished this year.

I continue to be interested in sharing our growing success story or answering any particular questions Hill residents may have about the school. Drop by at your convenience, or call anytime at 695-5905 (school) or 282-7931 (home).

Our neighborhood's continued support and encouragement of our program have made this year's success possible. We are looking forward to our best year yet in 1990-91.

Paul D. White, Principal
Potrero Hill Middle School

How the Hill Voted

	Potrero Hill	San Francisco	California
CITY PROPOSITIONS:	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
A - Public Safety Bonds	81 / 19	78 / 22	
B - School Facilities Safety	77 / 23	68 / 32	
C - Equipment Lease	70 / 30	67 / 33	
D - Graffiti Fund	49 / 51	54 / 46	
F - Min. Firefighter Staff.	42 / 58	48 / 52	
G - Former Supe Health Bene	74 / 26	66 / 34	
H - Fire Insp Retire Bene	78 / 22	75 / 25	
I - Retired Teachers	80 / 20	75 / 25	
J - Human Rights Comm.	71 / 29	65 / 35	
K - Seven Member Comm.	50 / 50	39 / 61	
L - Comm. Residency	63 / 37	55 / 45	
M - Comm. Gender Comp.	48 / 52	40 / 60	
N - 2 Term Supe Limit	50 / 50	58 / 42	
O - Hypodermic Syringes	63 / 37	54 / 46	

STATE PROPOSITIONS:

107 - Housing/Homeless Bonds	77 / 23	72 / 28	52 / 48
108 - Passenger Rail/Clean Air	79 / 21	75 / 25	56 / 44
109 - Governor's Review	41 / 59	48 / 52	55 / 45
110 - Disabled Prop Tax Exemp	87 / 13	84 / 16	80 / 20
111 - Cas Tax/Gann Limit	63 / 37	65 / 35	52 / 48
112 - State Officials, Ethics	74 / 26	74 / 26	62 / 48
113 - Chiropractic Practice	88 / 12	87 / 13	82 / 18
114 - Special Circum. Murder	46 / 54	58 / 42	71 / 29
115 - Criminal Law/Privacy	30 / 70	41 / 59	57 / 43
116 - Rail Transport, Bonds	76 / 24	74 / 26	53 / 47
117 - Wildlife Protection	74 / 26	69 / 31	52 / 48
118 - Reapportionment	19 / 81	25 / 75	33 / 67
119 - Reapportionment	20 / 80	26 / 74	36 / 64
120 - New Prison Construct.	41 / 59	51 / 49	56 / 44
121 - Higher Education Fac.	75 / 25	73 / 27	55 / 45
122 - Earthquake Safety	81 / 19	78 / 22	55 / 45
123 - School Facility Bonds	75 / 25	73 / 27	58 / 42

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Wendy Nelder	27.7	33.0
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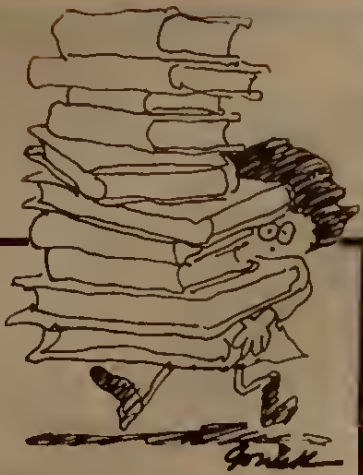
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LIBRARY NEWS POTRERO BRANCH 1616 20th St. 285-3022

Closed Monday
Tuesday 10-12 and 1-6pm
Wednesday 1-9pm
Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 1-6pm



BOOKS ON TAPE

Here at last! Books on tape! San Francisco Public Library has had a pilot project for some time while we tried to find the best way to buy, process and circulate books in this format. I don't think that we've found perfect answers, but we finally do have some books on cassette recordings. The books are abridged, but usually run for some time on two cassettes. Our small collection includes mainly popular fiction by writers such as Tom Clancy, Lawrence Sanders, Ken Follett and Anne Rice. We have biographies by Shelley Winters and Gilda Radner, and a few self-help books such as Bernie Siegel's "Peace, Love and Healing; Path to Self Healing" and Louise Hay "Deep Relaxation; You can Heal Your Life."

In addition to providing entertainment for a long car trip or a sleepless night, the books on tape sometimes offer the pleasure of hearing authors read their own works. I listened to Amy Tan reading her "Joy Luck Club" - easily the most popular book here at Potrero in the last two years - and it added a lot to the book to hear the stories from the storyteller. Some books, of course, are read by actors or other professional readers. *Publisher's Weekly*, in a recent interview with Barbara Bush, revealed that she was reading Rosalind Carter's book on audiocassette, through waterproof headphones, while swimming laps in the White House pool. Well, enjoy, but keep these cassettes dry please! Also, since the collection is small and we don't do interlibrary reserves for phonorecords or audiocassettes, we won't be taking reserves for these books on tape.

GOOD SUMMER READING

If you are looking for a good "summer read," I would suggest "Mary Reilly," by Valerie Martin. It's the page-turning story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, as seen through the eyes of a young servant in the household. Nicely written, with several gloomy, nervously jumpy late night scenes, it's a book to recommend to adult readers from teenagers to their grandparents. Don't read it to the little ones, though.

A BERSON EVENING

Mark your calendars for a special night at the library on July 11. Potrero Hill's Misha Berson, theater critic (Bay Guardian and elsewhere) and author of "The San Francisco Stage: From Gold Rush to Golden Soke" (reviewed in the May Potrero View), will give a talk on the city's active and varied entertainment scene during the time of such stars as Lola Montez, Adah Isaacs Menken and Edwin Booth. Her lecture will be illustrated with slides from the period, derived from the photo collection of the San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum. Come early for a good seat - the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

-Kay Roberts
Branch Librarian

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Do your children like to sit around a camp fire and listen to scary stories? Do they also like quilts? Do you wonder what these two disparate subjects have in common? If you come to the library

with your school-aged child at 2 p.m. on Thurs. July 5, you can find out. On this day, children over five years old, will have a chance to make a scary story quilt. They will each be given a fabric square to paint their favorite scary story character or scene. These squares will then be pieced together into a quilt which will hang in the children's section of the library.

Speaking of sitting around a camp fire and listening to scary stories, camping is the theme of the summer reading club this year. Be sure to stop by and find out how your child can be a "bookpacker" and win prizes for reading books this summer.

The Thursday following the scary quilt project, July 12, school-aged children can see the movie, "The Case of the Cosmic Comic." This film features two boys who actually get to meet their favorite comic book hero. This show will start at 2 p.m.

On Thurs., July 19, at 2 p.m., school-aged children can come hear the rap group, "La Creea" perform a medley of rap songs. This Daly City group is composed of 11-year-old La Creea Williams and two back-up dancers. According to her father, La Creea has been rapping since she was three years old. Her many years of experience have served her well. She has appeared on KRON's "Home Turf" show several times. In 1989 she won the "Entertainers Against Drugs" award. Last year, she even opened for "New Kids on the Block" when they appeared in Santa Rosa. Be sure to mark your calendar for all these programs during the first three weeks of July.

For the younger crowd, pre-school films will be shown at 10 a.m., Tues., July 10. This program will include three musical movies: "Dance Squared," "Fox Went out on a Chilly Night" and "I Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly."

Pre-school storytime (for ages 3-5) will meet every Tuesday at 10 a.m. except on movie day. Family storytime (for all ages) will meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m. except for Wednesday, July 4 when the library is closed.

Thanks to all 65-plus kids who helped make the Potrero Hill Children's Art Show a success.

-Cathy Nyhan
Children's Librarian

Muni/BART Tix at Nabe

MUNI and BART tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays through Fridays, during office hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MUNI tickets for seniors - \$4.50
YOUTH MUNI tickets cost \$5.00

BART tickets are sold only seniors, and children for \$1.60 per ticket. For more information call 826-8080.

Some Corrections

Missing from the lists of artists in the 35th Annual Potrero Hill Artists' Show were Eve Milton's "Port Oxford Cypress" (linocut), and Sachi Tsutsumi's "Purple Vase" and "Winter Morning" (intaglio). Michael Wong's pencil drawing "Adventure" was incorrectly identified as "View from Ryan Mt." by Vicki Weisman.

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

THE RAINS USED TO COME

A front-page photo in the July 1980 VIEW illustrated its heading "26th STREET NOW ONE-WAY." The story explained that "Winter rains have made 26th Street between Wisconsin and Kansas Sts. a one-way thoroughfare for the time being. The rains undermined the south edge of the street, and despite prompt repair by the Department of Public Works, further erosion has occurred requiring the closure of the east bound lane. . . ."

We should have such troubles now!

CRIME DETERRENTS—WHO HAS THE ANSWER?

That was the somewhat poignant headline for a story describing a Neighborhood House meeting in 1980. About 50 people attended the meeting at which "a representative of Mayor Dianne Feinstein's office and spokesmen from the Police and Fire departments met with Hill residents."

Police Inspector Rotea Gilford, Director of Criminal Justice under Mayor Feinstein, "argued that street crime was a by-product of an economic struggle between the 'haves' and 'havenots'. He called for a 'community outreach' attitude." A less philosophical approach was taken by Potrero Hill fire fighter John Drocco. He "pointed out that the stairway leading from Wisconsin to Arkansas Street on 22nd is a frequent escape route of purse snatchers and should therefore be blocked off . . ."

No conclusions were reached. Another meeting was scheduled.

TEN-YEAR-OLD BRIEF VIEWS

Residents of the Potrero Hill housing projects joined tenants from three other city housing facilities to file suit against the S.F. Housing Authority. The suit cites lack of necessary repairs and maintenance. . . . Michael and Megan Gwin were appearing in concert every Sunday at Goat Hill Pizza . . . Dick Partee and his North Beach Jazz Septet gave a free concert at the Neighborhood House . . . The Hill's LaTrice Austin came in first in a sprint event of the Jesse Owens Track Meet in Los Angeles . . . Peter Arnautoff, Hill-raised soccer star, was notified that he was a candidate for the U.S. national team. The team was scheduling practice for upcoming World Cup qualifying matches.

— Arden Arnautoff

NABE HELPS PARADE



When organizers of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade reached out to communities for help with their event, Board members and staff of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House pitched in and volunteered for the June 23-24 event. Ruth Possen photo

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

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Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

Youth Council Meetings - Wed., 4 p.m.
Parent Group Meetings - Wed., 6 p.m.
Girls Club Meetings - Mon., 5-7 p.m.
Omega Boys Club Meetings - 2nd & 4th Thurs. ea. month
Study Hall - Tues., 5-7 p.m.
Juvenile Diversion
Tutorial Program
Job Referral
Al-Anon - Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Sun/Mon/Thurs 8:30 p.m.
Cocaine Anonymous - Sat., 6-7 p.m.
Social Development Center: For developmentally disabled adults.
Basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer and health education, field trips, sensorimotor development, work training, leisure time use, group and individual counseling.
Senior Citizens Program: Hot lunches every weekday (at small cost).
Activities include - bingo games, information and referral, counseling, social hour, games and recreation.
Classes: Photography, Arts & Crafts.
Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Theatre (cost, \$5-7 per performance).

Facilities:

Meetingspaces available for use by community groups
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Gymnasium and recreational space
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Bulletin board with job and events listings
Mini-park
Child Development Center (for pre-school children)

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Fr. Sammon Sees Guatemala With Mayor, City Delegation

By C. J. Hirschfield

Mayor Art Agnos and Supervisor Jim Gonzales recently made an historic trip to Guatemala. Newspaper accounts occasionally mention the fact that they were accompanied on their 36-hour tour by a Bay Area delegation of a dozen others. Only one in the group was wearing a clerical collar-Father Peter Sammon of St. Teresa's Church on Potrero Hill. His participation in the trip did not surprise those familiar with the man, or with the unique nature of his parish and for what it stands.

Sammon was appointed to the City's Human Rights Commission a year and a half ago, and if ever there was a country in need of dialogue on this particular issue, Guatemala is it, and the good father is just the one to get the conversation started. Although the country boasts a worse human rights record than El Salvador (100,000 killed in political violence and 40,000 "disappearances" since military rule began in 1954), Guatemala has escaped the intense public scrutiny one would have expected. And though military rule ended in 1986, killings under the civilian government have continued at an alarming rate. During the past three months alone, four human rights workers have been murdered or have "disappeared". So when the call came in on a Sunday night informing Sammon that the plane was set to leave on Tuesday, he was ready.

The 450 families that make up the parish at St. Teresa's no doubt helped prepare their priest for this trip some time ago, when after a year of careful study they voted by secret ballot in 1984 (by an 81% margin) to declare their church a sanctuary. "It was a scary thing in those days," recalls Sammon. People were getting arrested for what amounted to a highly visible protest of a U.S. policy stating that refugees from

Guatemala and El Salvador were not in fact fleeing persecution, and therefore could be returned to their own countries-often to face death.

"The gospel means you're concerned with everyone," explains Sammon. "The Church cares for the quality of people's lives, for the human family." In response to the inevitable question about the role of the Church in politics, Sammon is clear. "If an issue concerns people and their lives, it concerns religion," he states.

"When Adela, a Guatemalan refugee now associated with the parish, told the story of how she was tortured, and her family murdered, the members of St. Teresa's apparently settled the question of whether or not it was appropriate for them to become involved in what could be branded "political", as opposed to human affairs. And so Father Sammon found himself on his way to Central America, the only cleric among politicians and businessmen.

The San Francisco delegation actually had a number of objectives on the trip: to convince the government to re-open its consulate in the City; to logue on the subject of future "full scale" trade missions, to deliver much-needed medication to a Guatemalan boy stricken with a rare adrenal cancer, and to meet with the country's most visible and vocal champion of human rights, Archbishop Prospero Penados de Barrio.

In only 36 hours, the group cinched the consular deal, opened the door for future trade business, delivered the medicine, and gave moral support to a man for whom death threats are an accepted way of life. It was the meeting with the Archbishop that most moved Sammon.

Calling Penados "a very courageous man", Sammon described the meeting at which the delegation was given a

very accurate picture of the country's state of affairs. Citing the Church as the only force in the country that can stand up to the government, Sammon recalled the Archbishop's belief that while conditions are appalling, there is nonetheless a small window of opportunity for change that currently exists. "We lifted his spirits," says Sammon, in a way that suggests that the experience went both ways. Sammon agrees with Supervisor Gonzales, who described the trip to Guatemala as "not a visit, but the commencement of a relationship."

Back home again on Potrero Hill, Father Sammon resumes his full schedule at St. Teresa's active and vital parish. Grief care, marriage counseling, charity work, seniors' activities, special events—all are part of the more traditional activities one has come to expect from a church. But participation in the San Francisco Organizing Project, the sanctuary movement and the Human Rights Commission is what makes St. Teresa's one of the most progressive parishes in the Bay Area.

In 1924, St. Teresa's Church was split in half, and dragged up from its original site at the bottom of Potrero Hill by a team of horses to its current site on Missouri Street. In the 90s the Catholic Church-and St. Teresa's-face such issues as abortion, capital punishment, and homosexuality-making the grueling trip up the hill seem easy by comparison.

Father Peter Sammon tells the story of the time he was on the receiving end of a hostile phone call on a live radio show. The caller berated Sammon and St. Teresa's for their role in the sanctuary movement, and further condemned the Church forever for the pain and suffering it inflicted during the Crusades and the Inquisition. "The Catholic Church is a bad institution," the caller concluded.

In response, Sammon pointed out the other times the Church hasn't been true to the teachings of Jesus Christ-during the days of slavery and the Holocaust. "That's why we're in the sanctuary movement," he went on, "so that you won't call two years from now and say that the church on Potrero Hill wasn't true to the Gospel of Christ."





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City Presents Hill Artists' Painting to Soviet President

By Vas Arnautoff

It's been just seven years since Potrero Hill artist Nobuo Watanabe first took up painting. But in that brief time he has developed his talent so rapidly that now his work commands five-figure prices and one painting was presented to Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev during his recent visit to San Francisco.

There's an old romantic notion, hardly ever taken seriously and largely forgotten, that one cannot be a true artist unless one has suffered. But occasionally a figure turns up who makes one remember that old fancy.

Such is the case with Watanabe (Nick, to his friends). Seven years ago, after a session of periodontal surgery, the 52-year-old Connecticut Street resident took to brush and paper in an effort to take his mind off his throbbing gums. The therapy was more successful than he envisioned it might be.

It wasn't instant success, of course. At the time of his surgery Watanabe was working at Sutro and Company, first in their computer department, then as a graphics coordinator. But initial response to the results of his therapeutic activity induced him to take the plunge. He quit his job and with the aid of part time work, including a stint at the Sausalito Flea Market, was able to spend the bulk of his time painting. And galleries began to take notice of his whimsical, romantic scenes.

Watanabe paints imaginary landscapes and cityscapes reminiscent of Currier and Ives. In one, titled "Skinny Dipping", a lake in the foreground is full of cavorting children (all properly clad in bathing suits, despite the title). There's a mill with a waterwheel, a meadow with various animals grazing and beyond that a barn, a church, a covered bridge and in the far distance a turn-of-the-century train crossing a bridge. And everywhere, trees like lollipops.

Unabashed in his desire to show his art "where the money is", Watanabe took his work to Honolulu. His success there led him to Carmel, where the Bill W. Dodge Gallery accepted him and introduced him

to New York. Now limited edition serigraph prints of his original paintings are widely sold.

Mayor Art Agnos became acquainted with Watanabe's art at the neighborhood party given his family on the occasion of the Agnos' departure from Potrero Hill. The artist, a 17-year resident of the Hill, had never met the mayor, but presented him one of his paintings as a combination going-away and house-warming gift.

Thus it was that when Sherri Agnos saw Watanabe's "Powell Street Cable Car" at a one-man show she decided it was the perfect gift for the Soviet Premier. This painting, vaguely 1920s in flavor, has a group of well dressed people lined up at Powell and Market about to board a cable car on its turntable. A limousine and an old Muni street car pass in front of it on Market Street. United States and California State flags flutter from the immaculate buildings that line Powell Street to its summit.

The artist himself was to present the painting to Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev at the scheduled reception at the Banker's Club at the Bank of America building. When the Premier's schedule began to run overtime that stop was cancelled, and Mayor Agnos took the gift to the airport, and presented it moments before the Gorbachevs boarded their plane.

Other honors have come Watanabe's way. During Easter week, he was one of 100 artists nationwide who was asked to participate in the annual White House Easter Egg Roll for which he created two painted eggs. One is now in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

Coming up in the immediate future for the Hill artist are shows in July in Beverly Hills and in his native Japan in the fall.

Locally, Watanabe's work can be seen at the Ron Segal Gallery in Rincon Center, 101 Spear Street.



Artist Nobuo Watanabe works long hours at his drawing table in his residence on Connecticut Street on Potrero Hill.

Clamor? On DeHaro? Help! Help!

La Clameur de Haro

Two View staffers with a taste for the esoteric recently received an information sheet from the Museum Education Service of the English Channel island of Guernsey. Its title is that shown above, "La Clameur de Haro." Since they live on De Haro Street, their interest was immediately aroused. The publication explains as follows.

"According to tradition, La Clameur de Haro is a cry for help to Rollo, the first Duke of Normandy, who was noted for his harsh but just government . . . After Rollo's death, anyone who felt he was being wronged, took to crying out 'Haron' or 'Haro,' supposed to be a corruption of Ha! Rollo! . . . The practice has continued ever since."



There is a formula for invoking the help of the ancient Duke. One begins by saying the words "Haro, Haro, Haro, Haro, a l'aide mon Prince, on me fait tort" (Haro, to my aid my Prince, wrong is being done to me). It must be said kneeling on or near the scene of the act complained of, followed by the Lord's Prayer in French. Two witnesses must be present."

Once the "Clameur" has been raised, that which is complained of must come to a halt, and the person wronged must go to officials and register the complaint in writing. "Once that has been done, either side has 12 months to bring an action against the other . . . During that 12 months the action complained of cannot continue."

"Raising the Clameur" has in recent times been used to protest the alleged blocking of a drain (1910), to prevent the widening of the roadway next to a church (1920), and to prevent a crane overhanging a shop (1975).

The Guernsey tradition of the Clameur de Haro goes back to the 10th century and Duke Rollo, but some experts contend that the tradition goes back to old German laws of the sixth century AD. They believe that "the cry 'Haro' is derived from the old German 'Hara,' 'Hera,' 'hierher' meaning 'Here' or 'come here!'"

Potrero Hill's De Haro can only claim a couple of hundred years of tradition - it honors the first Spanish Alcalde of San Francisco. However, where did the 18th century alcalde's surname come from? Do we who live on his street have a tie to that ancient claim for justice? Shall we all learn the Lord's Prayer in French?

— A. Arnautoff

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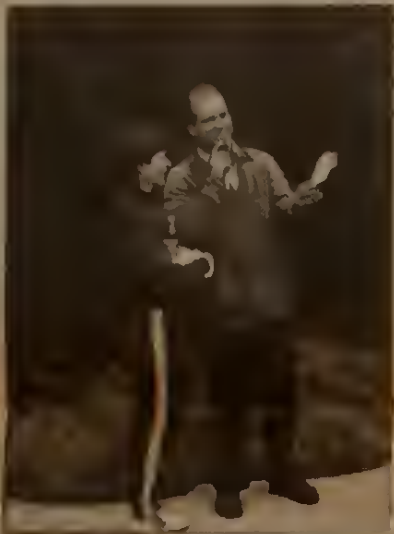
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SCENES FROM THE SCAMPER



Photos by Bob Hayes, Ruth Passen
and Lester Zeidman

Various members of the Bay Area business community have agreed to donate a percentage of their sales on July 19 to La Casa de las Madres, a San Francisco shelter for battered women and children. La Casa is raising funds to continue to provide food, shelter, and counseling to enable women to break the cycle of violence in their lives. To find out which businesses are supporting this cause, or to make a donation, call 777-1808 and mention "La Casa Day." De Haro Street designer Terry McHugh already got into the effort in June by urging her customers to donate suitable castoffs to La Casa and drop them at her store for a 12-day period.

The San Francisco Craft and Folk Art Museum, located at Ft. Mason, features an exhibition of Folk Art from the Soviet Union, at Pier 2, with Elena Tsareva, Curator at the State Museum of Ethnography of the Peoples of the USSR in Leningrad, giving an illustrated lecture on some of the more than 700 stunning objects in the current show. Admission is \$4. Call 775-0990 for more info.

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco offer free admission for all city children. If they are over the age of 11, they just have to show their San Francisco school identification card. Adults accompanying children need only show a current MUNI Fast Pass or transfer and receive a \$1 discount on the adult admission fee. The Museums are free for everyone on the first Wednesday of the month and the first Saturday morning. The July 4 program at the de Young Museum includes a film, "Hearts and Hands" by Pat Ferrero, about the influence of women and quilts on American Society. On July 7, 14, 21 and 28 there are drop-in classes for kids aged 7-14, a free program of gallery tours and art workshops, including painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, weaving and sculpture. No pre-registration is required. Call 750-3658 for more info.

The Cartoon Art Museum turns into Charlie Brown's life-size neighborhood when it opens the Peanuts 40th Anniversary Exhibition July 5, at 665 Third St., 5th Fl., in San Francisco. Original ink drawings by Peanuts creator Charles M. Schulz, along with colorful toys, dolls, and a video display are among the works on exhibit through Oct. 27. This exhibit is announced as the "only in-depth celebration of Schulz's masterful cartoon art from the past four decades." For info on times, etc., call 546-3922.



The San Francisco SPCA offers Summer fun for kids and parents, with experiences meeting many different types of pet animals, July 12, 19 and 26. Call 554-3060 for info.

Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., offers free lectures in July: Mother Jones magazine senior editor David Beers will speak on why Congress cannot give up the military industrial complex, July 11; members of the comic book community will present their reply to the Supreme Court decision on reproductive choice on July 15; and a reception and book party to celebrate the publication of "Dorothy Healey Remembers: A Life in the Communist Party," featuring Healey, takes place July 21. All events take place at 7:30 p.m., except the Healey evening, which begins at 6:30 p.m.

The Mission Branch of the San Francisco Public Library is sponsoring a poetry contest designed to celebrate the Mission District's rich cultural diversity. The contest is open to all residents and friends of the Mission District, from children to adults. Poems may be written in English or Spanish and may be submitted to the Mission Library until July 21. For more info, call Steve or Barbara at 824-2810.

An Evening of Salsa for the New Song, a benefit for the 9th Annual New Song Music Festival, features a 10-piece band including Miguel Govea, Antonio Ramirez, Roland Morales, Louie Romero, Edgardo Cambon, Juan Leballos, Ramon Torrez, Mike Madrigal, Carl Arraiza and Gingo Blea. The New Song Festival, also known as Encuentro del Canto Popular, is a yearly gathering of Latin American folk musicians from throughout the Americas. The festival has served as a showcase of local and internationally renowned folk music artists. Tickets can be purchased at several places in the Mission. Call 252-5957 for locations.

Top Hollywood script consultant Linda Seger holds a two day workshop July 7 - 8 at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. Sessions in the workshop include Making a Good Script Great, and Creating Unforgettable Characters. The event is co-sponsored by Northern California Women in Film and Television and the Film/Arts Foundation. There is a fee. For info, call 552-8760.

As part of celebrating 20 years of presenting Chicano/Latino arts, Galeria De La Raza presents a retrospective exhibition of the art and film work, curatorial contributions and community activism of Galeria co-founder Ralph Maradiaga from July 3 - Aug. 11, 2857 - 24th St. A reception is set for July 6 from 7 - 9 p.m.

Are you bored with retirement? The Retired Seniors Volunteer Program of San Francisco has many positions in many areas: helping the elderly; working with children; the arts and the sciences. For instance: volunteers who serve the American Conservatory Theater are looking for a volunteer Head Librarian for the Library of the Conservatory; Travelers Aid needs help for its Transbay Volunteer Program; The Lines Dance Company would like a receptionist to answer the phone and handle light clerical work; Animal Care and Control Dept. is a new department of the City and County of San Francisco with a new animal shelter, and has openings for volunteers who are interested in the welfare of dogs and cats. Call 731-3335 for more info.

It was just a factory opening... but oh, the stars came out for Gino and Alexis Biradelli at the public opening of their Cafferata Ravioli Factory on Wisconsin Street June 25. North Beach types

mingled with public officials, and local Potrero Hill business folk, friends and residents enjoyed the interesting mix of invitees, and gorged on an amazing buffet. The Biradellis, Potrero Hill residents, well known in North Beach for their pasta factory and restaurant on Columbus Avenue, decided to enlarge and move only the factory operation to Potrero Hill. The Biradellis used this occasion to announce that anyone wanting to purchase fresh pasta from them as they did in North Beach can still do so in their new Potrero Hill plant.



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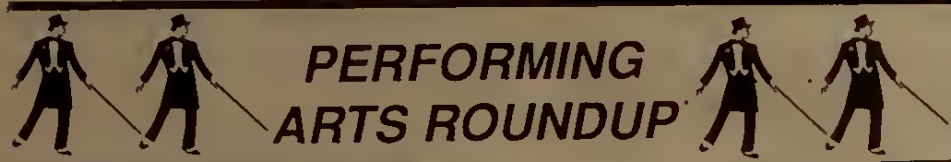
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PERFORMING ARTS ROUNDUP

THEATER

Eureka Theatre Company, 2730 16th St. presents world premiere of **SDLO JDURNEY**. Two one-person performances featuring Kent Whipple in **DOUG BEALE: ATLANTA 1983** and Anna Deavere Smith **ON THE ROAD: SAN FRANCISCO 1990**. Now thru July 15. 558-9898.

Eureka Theatre, 2730 16th St. Late night series - "HEARTSHOTS: theatre for the dark times" continues with **DARK CIRCUS**, a "Vaudeville Variety Psychodrama Extravaganza" by Chris Brophy, Chrystene Ellis, and Stephen Pocock. Thru July 14, at 11pm. All performances follow Eureka's mainstage productions on Fri. & Sat. 558-9898.

Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama St. P.M. Productions presents **TWO OUTRAGEOUS BLACK COMEDIES: THE THREE POLICEMEN** and **WHAT THE PLUMBER SAW** by Bret Fetzer. Directed by Charles E. Polly. Thru July 7. 621-8875.

Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. **DOLDRES STREET** by Theresa Carilli. July 6-29. 861-5079.

Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. **CARNE VALE** by Elbows Akimbo. July 11-29. 626-3311.

New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. presents **YONDER COMES DAY** by Marijo & new works by Los Angeles Poverty Dept. July 19-28. 346-9963.

Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. presents **DIRTY DREAMS OF A CLEAN-CUT KID** by Henry Mach. Thru July 15. 861-5079.



KeyE. Benjamin stars in a one woman show, "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf," by Ntozake Shange, at the Potrero Hill Theatre, 953 De Haro St., Fridays and Saturdays through July 21.

Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. Thick Description makes its Bay Area debut with **WHA...I, WHAI, A LONG LONG TIME AGO**, a play with actors and puppets by Korean novelist Ch'oe In-hun. Thru July 15. 863-7058.

Potrero Hill Theatre, 953 De Haro. One Woman Show by Kay Elizabeth - **FDR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF** by Ntozake Shange. Thru July 21. 839-9271.

New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. presents members of the local theatre/comedy community in **BAY AREA THEATRESPOOTS**. Monday nights at 8pm. Call 824-8220 for res/info.

PG&E Beale St. headquarters, Rm. 1760. The Z Collective presents Richard Strand's **THE BUG**, opening July 9, runs Fri., Sat., & Mon. at 8pm; Sun. at 2:30 thru July 30. Previews begin July 6. 863-4793, res.

DANCE

Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. presents L.A. based Pacific American Ballet Theater in **WINTER WAR**, a trilogy about being Japanese in America. July 5-8, 8:30pm. Sat. & Sun. at 2pm. 621-7797.

New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. presents **DANCE CURRENT** in concert. Robin Greenberg, Artistic Director/choreographer. July 13 & 14, 8pm. 863-9834.

FILM

York Theatre, 2789 24th St. Film Arts Foundation presents premiere of **SACRED GAMES**, documentary of contemporary Maya Indians of Mexico. Playing with Patricia Amlin's **POPD L VUH**. July 7-10. Opening night reception at Galeria de la Raza, 2581 24th St., 6:30pm. Call 552-8760 for res. for reception & film only.

MULTI-MEDIA

Music Concourse Bandshell, Golden Gate Park. **CITY CELEBRATION** presents its annual summer festival of Performing Arts. Saturdays 1-3pm. Free. Call 474-3914 for details.

MAKE*A*CIRCUS 1990 Summer Festival presents free performances of **THE MOUTH THAT ROARED** at various parks, playgrounds in the Bay Area. July shows in S.F. include: Father Boedekker Park, Jones & Eddy, Sun., July 8; Sharon Meadows, G. Gate Park Childrens' Playground, Aug. 3. For complete schedule call 776-8477.

YOUNG ARTISTS



Young attendees at the Potrero Library's Children's Art Show opening June 9 enjoys the storytelling of a friendly clown (above). Hill resident Paul Conrad (right), one of the many young exhibitors, points proudly to his artistic achievement. Judy Baston photo



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BELL RINGER WINS FOR HILL



Randy Wong, one of six amateur bell ringers representing non-profit organizations, was crowned "Celebrity Bell Ringing Champion" for the tenth time at the 27th Annual Cable Car Bell Ringing Competition in Union Square June 21. His rhythmic chiming "rang in" \$1,000 cash and an equal amount of radio airtime for the Potrero Hill Child Development Center. The event is sponsored by radio station KABL and San Francisco's Municipal Railway.



CAFFERATA RAVIOLI FACTORY

Gino Biradelli, a resident of Potrero Hill for nearly 20 years, and proprietor of Cafferata Ravioli Factory, has brought his pasta factory to Potrero Hill and is now offering pasta for sale to the public at his new location at 130 Wisconsin Street, between 16th and 17th Streets.

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Massive Repairs
On Freeway
At Mariposa

The October 17 earthquake severely strained sections of Highway 280 on the east side of Potrero Hill. Photographer Steve Harper spotted some of the massive repair work being done, much of it unseen by strollers and motorists.



Middle School Tracksters Win Title

For the tenth time in the last 12 years the Potrero Hill Middle School Track Team has won the city championship. In one of the Hill's closest finishes in recent years, the Stallions edged Marina Middle School by three points, winning 239 - 236. Herbert Hoover finished in third place and Roosevelt finished fourth. There are 16 middle schools in San Francisco.

Leading the way and establishing a city record for Potrero Hill was sixth grader Oasii Lucero, who ran 2:42.8 in the Girls 800 meter run. The 90's Relay team of Michael Blanco, Erickson Dum-lau, Jinjoe Kellom and Evette Jones took first place, as well as the Girls Unlimited Relay of Heidi Bluford, Michelle Fergu-son, Rameka Ewell, and Nakia Shortz.

Other first place finishers included Anthony Bustus (High Jump); Jinjoe Kellom (High Jump); Joey Nugui (Long Jump); Erickson Dum-lau (Long Jump); Michael Blanco (50 m.); Bunrath Kim (70 M), and Nakia Shortz (100 M.). Tuvana Ginger broke the school record in the 100's Long Jump with a leap of 18'5½". Anthony Bustos broke the 80's High Jump school record with a leap of 4'6".

Potrero Hill was coached by Jeff Thollander, Bob Furr, and retiring coach Jack Jacqua. Marina is coached by former Potrero Hill student Stanley Periott and was defending City Champion.

— Jeff Thollander
Athletic Director
Potrero Hill Middle School

Make*A*Circus Summer Fete

The 1990 Make*A*Circus Summer Festi-val has scheduled one event in San Fran-cisco for July. On Sunday, July 8 it will be at Father Boedekker Park, Jones and Eddy Streets with the following events:

12:30 IT'S THE CIRCUS! In this year's show, THE MOUTH THAT ROARED, students compete for the crown of cool-ness when the Big Mouth Radio Show an-nounces its big Bust-A-Move contest. From the sharpest to the squarest, all try to out-flip, out-juggle, out-clown and out-tumble each other in the hope of capturing the attention of and pleasing

the #1 trend-setter, Big Mouth. In the process, they learn that they can set their own trends and decide for them-selves what being cool really means. Featuring VAUDEVILLE NOUVEAU! 1:30 Workshops! Every Make*A*Circus appearance includes a chance to join the Circus! Learn to clown, walk on stilts, juggle or do acrobatics. Then use your newfound skills in a real performance during the MAKE*A*CIRCUS CHILD-REN'S SHOW. 2:15 THE CHILDREN'S SHOW! Now it's your turn to "Be In It!" — all those who participated in the workshops join THE MOUTH THAT ROARED cast for a grande finale performance of FEELERS! Under the control of a tyrannical spider, swarms of insects (played by the work-shop participants) gang up on two lovers picnicking in the park.

Come early and enjoy the Penny Carnival! Many of our Presenters organize a pre-show Penny Carnival to benefit projects in their communities. If you would like information on the Carnival in your area or would like tips on organizing one, call MAKE*A*CIRCUS. 776-8477. They will be glad to help.



MUSIC FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS



The Potrero Hill Recreation Center offers a pre-school Music Class every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. through the summer months. The center is located on Arkansas at Alameda Streets.
Jon Greenberg photo

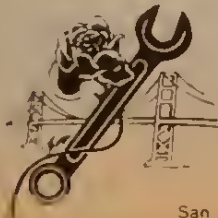


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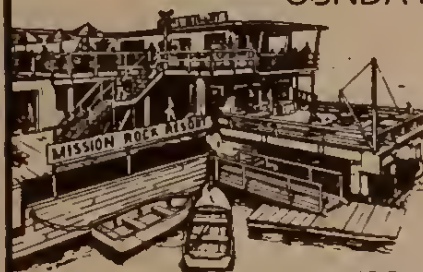
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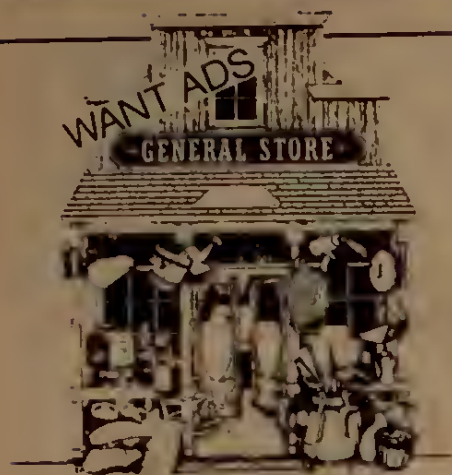
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